

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid collection apparatus comprising:  
a housing configured for receipt of fluid and having a first surface which defines a needleless first mating portion; and  
a holder having a first end and a second end configured to receive an evacuated tube, ~~the~~ said first end defining a second mating portion on an outer surface thereof which is in fluid communication with the evacuated tube,  
wherein ~~the~~ said first mating portion sealingly engages ~~the~~ said second mating portion to establish fluid communication therebetween; and  
a base disposed with ~~the~~ said housing and being configured for support thereof.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base has a top opening adapted for receiving said housing.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is adapted for standing on a surface.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is configured to enclose said holder.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said housing has a flange portion extending radially therefrom that engages said base.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base defines at least one rib, ~~the~~ said rib defining a step for supporting said housing.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base defines a plurality of ribs, ~~the~~ said ribs each defining a step for supporting said housing.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said base is configured to enclose each of said housing, said holder and an evacuated tube installed in said holder.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said base includes a plurality of sidewall extensions, ~~the~~ said sidewall extensions being separated by cutout portions.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a removable cap, ~~the~~ said cap being adapted to removable enclose an opening of ~~the~~ said housing.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said removable cap is adapted to provide a fluid seal with said housing.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said removable cap includes a finger grip.

13-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A surgical fluid collection apparatus, which comprises:  
a housing member defining an internal chamber for collection of body fluids and having a fluid outlet;  
a holder member coupled to the housing member, the holder member having an internal penetrating member defining an internal conduit in fluid communication with the fluid outlet of the housing member when the holder member is coupled to the housing member to permit passage of the body fluids therethrough; and  
a base mounted with respect to the housing member, the base adapted to maintain the housing member in supporting relation therewith.

26. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the base is positionable on a support surface, and is adapted to maintain the housing member in a general upright position.

27. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the base includes an extended support for positioning on the support surface.

28. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the base is integrally formed with the housing member.

29. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the base is adapted to at least partially accommodate one of the housing member and the holder member.

30. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 25 further including an end cap for positioning onto the housing member for substantially closing the internal chamber of the housing member.

31. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 30 wherein the holder member is operatively connected to the end cap and depends therefrom.

32. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the holder member is integrally formed with the end cap, the holder member including an internal wall depending from the end cap and at least partially received within the housing member upon coupling of the end cap with the housing member.

33. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the housing member includes first and second internal chambers, the first internal chamber adapted to accommodate a fluid sample, the second internal chamber adapted for accommodating the holder member and in fluid communication with the first internal chamber.

34. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 33 wherein the end cap includes first and second chamber covers for substantially closing the first and second internal chambers, respectively, of the housing member.

35. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 34 wherein the first and second chamber covers are operable independent from each other to be selectively opened to permit respective access to the first and second internal chambers.

36. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 25 further including a collection member positionable with respect to the holder member to receive the body fluids passing through the internal conduit of the internal penetrating member.

37. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the collection member includes a closure element, the closure element adapted to be penetrated by the internal penetrating member of the holder member.

38. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 37 wherein the holder member defines an internal cavity dimensioned for at least partial reception of the collection member, the internal penetrating member being at least partially accommodated within the internal cavity.

39. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the housing member and the holding member include respective connecting portions, the connecting portions adapted to cooperate to establish a releasable coupling relation between the housing member and the holding member.

40. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 39 wherein the connecting portions of the housing member and the holding member include respective locking elements, the locking elements adapted to cooperate to establish a substantial secured relation of the housing member and the holding member.

41. (New) The surgical fluid collection apparatus according to claim 25 including means for facilitating securing of the holding member to the housing member.